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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

**Intermountain
Region**

Ogden, Utah

Endangered Species Of Utah

LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT

MAGUIRE PRIMROSE

AUTUMN BUTTERCUP

UTAH PRAIRIE DOG

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As of June 1990, five hundred eighty-two native mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, plants, and other life forms are officially protected on the U.S. list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. In addition, more than 500 foreign species have been officially listed. Within the state of Utah, 28 species of native fauna and flora are currently listed as either threatened or endangered, with an additional two species, one fish and one plant, currently proposed for designation as endangered species.

Endangered species are found in many different habitat types throughout the state of Utah.

Utah's Federally listed and officially proposed threatened and endangered animal species are:

black-footed ferret
Mustela nigripes
Utah prairie dog
Cynomys parvidens
peregrine falcon
Falco peregrinus
bald eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
whooping crane
Grus americanus
desert tortoise
Gopherus agassizii
Colorado River squawfish
Ptychocheilus lucius
humpback chub
Gila cypha
bonytail chub
Gila elegans
razorback sucker
Xyrauchen texanus
woundfin
Plagopterus argentissimus
Virgin River chub
Gila robusta seminuda
June sucker
Chasmistes liorus
Lahontan cutthroat trout
Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi

Utah's Federally listed and officially proposed threatened and endangered plant species include:

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autumn buttercup
Ranunculus acriformis aestivalis
Barneby ridge-cress
Lepidium barnebyanum
clay phacelia
Phacelia argillacea
dwarf bear-claw poppy
Actomecon humilis
Jones cycladenia
Cycladenia humilis jonesii
Heliotrope milkvetch
Astragalus montii
last chance townsendia
Townsendia aprica
Maguire daisy
Erigeron maguirei maguirei
Maguire primrose
Primula maguirei
San Rafael cactus
Pediocactus despainii
Siler cactus
Pediocactus sileri
spineless hedgehog cactus
Echinocereus triglochidiatus inermis
shrubby reed-mustard
Shoenocrambe suffrutescens
Uinta Basin hookless cactus
Sclerocactus glaucus
Welsh's milkweed
Asclepias welshii
Wright fishhook cactus
Sclerocactus wrightiae

The State of Utah includes a diverse variety of natural land forms that have generated numerous unique biological ecosystems and communities. The state's arid climate and diverse geologically controlled soil types have produced a multitude of unique habitats. Various plant species have become adapted to these sites and have, in some cases, become endemic, or restricted, to "islands of suitable habitat in an arid sea." The majority of the state's endangered and threatened plant species are these highly restricted soil endemics. Habitat alteration as a consequence of mining and energy development, recreational activities, and agricultural uses have significantly impacted some of these endangered and threatened plants, and many more species are vulnerable to similar threats in the future.

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The state's rivers and streams have similarly spawned numerous species of fish endemic only to those waterways. These fish have developed adaptations which have enabled them to cope with extremely variable water conditions. With the development of water control projects to control the wild nature of Utah's rivers, the quality of their aquatic habitat changed. The human introduction of exotic fish species (both deliberate and accidental) into these altered stream ecosystems have impacted the native species by forcing them to compete with species they are poorly equipped to deal with. These and other factors have led to the endangerment of many Utah fish.

Other of Utah's endangered and threatened species, such as the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and desert tortoise, have large distributions and ranges far beyond the state's borders. These species have been victims of environmental contamination from pesticides and other pollutants, commercial exploitation, indiscriminate hunting and taking in the past, and in some cases, wide-scale loss of essential elements of their habitat.

Several groups within the State of Utah are working together in an effort to conserve and recover Utah's endangered species. The ultimate success of this effort, however, depends upon the desire of citizens of the state and the nation to achieve this noble and worthy goal.

The State of Utah, through the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Utah Natural Heritage Program, both operating within the Department of Natural Resources, is active in inventorying, monitoring, and managing rare and sensitive populations of animals and plants within the state. Likewise, Federal land managing agencies, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service, are inventorying, monitoring, and managing habitat of endangered, threatened, and other sensitive and rare species of animals and plants on lands in Utah under their jurisdiction. Other Federal agencies, most notably the Bureau of Reclamation in recovery activities for endangered fish species in Utah's waterways, are also engaged in the conservation of listed endangered and threatened species in Utah. Private conservation groups, including **The** Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, the Utah Native Plant Society, and others are also actively engaged in the conservation of threatened, endangered, and other sensitive and rare species within Utah.

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The loss of some species, such as the dinosaurs, are part of a natural process. Some people may ask: "Why save endangered species? What makes a relatively few animals and plants so special that effort and money should be expended to preserve them?"

Congress addressed these questions in the preamble to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, holding that endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants "are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people." In making this statement, Congress was summarizing a number of convincing arguments advanced by thoughtful scientists, conservationists, and others who are greatly concerned by the disappearance of numerous species of animals and plants.

Sadly, we can no longer attribute the increasing decline in our wild animals and native plants to "natural" processes. Many are declining because of exploitation, habitat alteration or destruction, pollution, or the introduction of new species of plants and animals to an area.

The Endangered Species Act states, in part, as its purpose: ". . . to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered and threatened species, . . ." The Endangered Species Act further declares that: ". . . the policy of Congress [is] that all Federal Departments and Agencies shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act." As mandated by Congress, protecting endangered species and restoring them to the point where their existence is no longer jeopardized is the primary objective of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services's Endangered Species Program.

Passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 gave the United States one of the most far-reaching laws ever enacted by any country to prevent the extinction of imperiled animals and plants. The Act created a national program that today involves the Federal Government, the States, conservation organizations, individual citizens, business and industry, and foreign governments in a cooperative effort to conserve endangered plant and animal species throughout the world. Under the law, the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) has broad powers to protect and conserve all forms of wildlife and plants he finds in serious jeopardy.

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For more information concerning Utah's endangered, threatened, and other sensitive and rare plants and animals, you can contact any office of the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, the headquarters of any National Park in Utah, any office of the Bureau of Land Management, any Forest Service office in Utah, the Utah Natural Heritage Program office in Salt Lake City, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Salt Lake City. Many Utah colleges and universities are active and knowledgeable in endangered species conservation issues, as are organized conservation groups.

Contributors and supporters:

Brigham Young University
University of Utah
Utah State University
The Audubon Society
The Nature Conservancy
The Utah Native Plant Society
The Utah Wildlife Federation
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah Natural Heritage Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service

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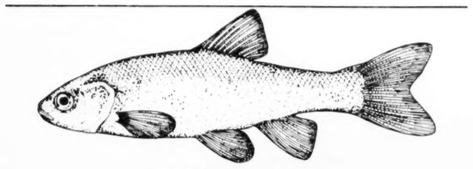
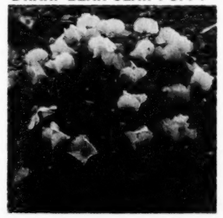


VIRGIN RIVER CHUB

UINTAH BASIN HOOKLESS CACTUS

BARNEBY RIDGE-CRESS

BALD EAGLE



DWARF BEAR-CLAW POPPY

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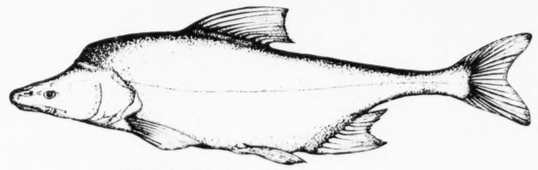
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF UTAH

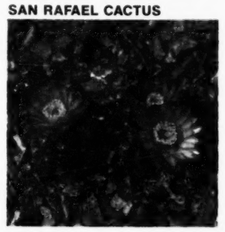
MAGUIRE DAISY

PEREGRINE FALCON



HUMPBACK CHUB

SPINELESS HEDGEHOG CACTUS



SAN RAFAEL CACTUS

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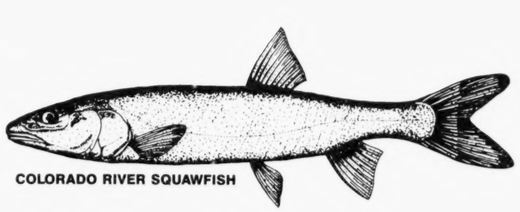
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF UTAH

LAST CHANCE TOWNSENDIA

CLAY PHACELIA



COLORADO RIVER SQUAWFISH

SHRUBBY REED-MUSTARD

VIRGIN RIVER HABITAT

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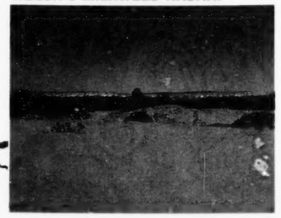
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF UTAH

WRIGHT FISHHOOK CACTUS

DESERT TORTOISE

WELSH'S MILKWEED



WELSH'S MILKWEED HABITAT

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